

St. Michael's Parish

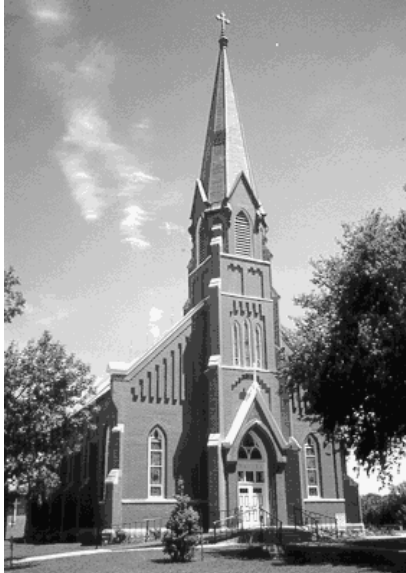
502 6th Street

Axtell, Kansas 66403

Father Mathew Francis

December 21, 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



St. Michael's MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec. 20 - 5:00 PM + **Jim Mathewson**

Sunday, Dec. 21 - 10:15 AM + **Dale Strathman**

Monday, Dec. 22 - 8:30 AM **Special Intentions**

Tuesday, Dec. 23 - 8:00 AM **Ladies Guild and Ladies of the Parish**

St. John of Kanty

Wednesday, Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM + **Carol Bishop**

Christmas Eve

Thursday, Dec. 25 - 9:00 AM **People of the Parish**

The Nativity of the Lord

Friday, Dec. 26 - No Mass

St. Stephen

Saturday, Dec. 27 - 5:00 PM **The John Severin Family**

Sunday, Dec. 28 - 10:15 AM + **Jerry & Rose Heiman**

Holy Family Mass Schedule

Wed, Dec. 24 - 7:30 PM

Sun, Dec. 28 - 8:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

For Next Sunday Morning

2-3 Year Olds

Michelle & Kasen Kohake

4-5 Year Olds

Chase, Logan, & Jaden Kohake

SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

For Last Sunday:

Last Weekend Collection: \$ 1,160.00

World Mission Sunday: \$ 200.00

Human Development: \$ 200.00

Religious Retirement Fund: \$ 720.00

Fr. Mathew Francis: E-mail: fmathew62@yahoo.com 502 6th St., Axtell, KS 66403

Rectory: 736-2220 Cell: 913-547-3300 Hall: 736-2343

Bulletin News: Contact by Wednesday AM: St. Michael's: **Pamela Buessing** - 799-5481

rpbuessing@bluevalley.net

Digital Bulletin: www.axtellks.com

Holy Family: **Rosalie Meybrunn**

rmeybrunn@hotmail.com

Baptisms: Arranged by Appointment Only **Marriage:** Six Month Notice Requested

Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:15-4:45 PM or Anytime by Arrangement

Religious Education: Call Karen Farrell at 620-794-5485.

Faith Formation: Call Patty Buessing at 736-2766

Hall Rental: Call Jan Koch at 799-7114

Communion To Shut-Ins: Call Fr. Mathew at 736-2220

FertilityCare, NFP, Women's Reproductive Health: Jess Buessing: 785-639-7802

jbuessing.fertilitycare@gmail.com

Young Adults

**Group will
meet on the
1st Sunday
of each
month at
1:00PM**

Liturgical Ministers for This Weekend

Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Lector: Brenda Peschel

Host Min: Connie Ronnebaum

Cup Min: Dave Ronnebaum, Theresa Sack

Servers: Braden Sack & Kinley Sack

Usher: Mike Ronnebaum

Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025 - 10:15 AM

Lector: Carla Bishop

Host Min: Susan Broxterman

Cup Min: Brian Deters, Mary Jane Deters

Servers: Colin Shaughnessy, Charlee Shaughnessy

Usher: Adam Ronnebaum, Mark Wagner

*****Will need Volunteer Ministers for Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Masses. Thank-You! *****

Liturgical Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday, Dec. 27, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Lector: Amy Smith

Host Min: Mitchell Buessing

Cup Min: Tony Smith, Linda Buessing

Servers: Wyatt Koch, Lenny Koch

Usher: Stan Broxterman

Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025 - 10:15 AM

Lector: Seth Bishop

Host Min: Patty Buessing

Cup Min: Carl Koch, Dave Koch

Servers: Natalee Strathman, Maggie Strathman

Usher: Bill Buessing, Dale Buessing

UPCOMING ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE:

December 21st: 3:00PM Sts Peter & Paul in Seneca

Mass times for Christmas:

Christmas Eve:

St. Michael's, Axtell: 4:00 PM Holy Family, Summerfield: 7:30 PM

Christmas Day: St. Michael's, Axtell: 9:00 AM

No mass on Wed AM at Holy Family or Friday AM at St. Michael's

FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH: There will be Adoration from 6:45-7:45AM prior to the First Friday of the month masses at 8:00AM.

ADDRESSES: Here are the addresses of Evan Buessing and Ethan McElroy, who are currently serving in the Armed Forces and will be there over the Holidays, if you would like to send them some Christmas Blessings and Well Wishes.

Evan Buessing

PSC 9 Box 1932

APO, AE 09123

SSG McElroy, Ethan

RLZ/130th TAP Q-53

cmr 1783 APO, AE 09807-0301 United States

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Winners of the Parish Council Elections are:

Stacie Buessing & Scott Koch!

The Knights of Columbus DVD "Four Greater Glory" is missing from the back of church. If you have it, please return it so others can watch and enjoy it. Thank-you!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS COLLECTION: Heartfelt gratitude for your generosity! Thank you very much for your donations, always," says Sister Olivia Bellegante, 93, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri. Your gift directly impacts thousands of senior religious, providing the support they need in their later years. Learn more at retiredreligious.org.

MASS INTENTIONS: We are in need of more mass intentions, especially for weekday masses.

++Remember in Your Prayers++: *Please remember those who are sick, taking treatments, or hospitalized: Cort Collins, Lourdu Samy Francis (Fr. Mathew's brother), Gladys Koch, Kathy Buessing, Kristi Meyer, LaVerna Ronnebaum, Larry Macke, Rita Olberding, Lisa Porting, Kade Sides (grandson of Don & Mary Jane Deters), Narisetty Lilly Pushpa (Fr. Gova's mother), Sara McCarn, Jan Tomlinson, Tiffany Strohmeier, Jena (CHWC), Shirley Schmitz, Fr. Ed Oen, Duane Bernasek.*

Vocation Thoughts: *"Stop asking for a sign and become one. Consider becoming a priest or religious." (Isaiah 7:10-14)*

Single Catholic women between the ages of 18-30 are invited to join the Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick on the first Saturday of each month for Holy Hour, pizza, and time with the Sisters from 5:30-8:00PM at 800 N. 18th St. in Kansas City, MO. Questions can be directed to Sister Elizabeth, Vocation Director, at 913-278-5986 or visit their website for more information: www.sisterservantsofmary.org.

Retrouvaille Healing Marriage Weekend: Retrouvaille helps couples heal and renew their hurting marriages. This program works to improve communication and help couples reconnect. Retrouvaille presenters are not trained as marriage counselors, but rather couples sharing their personal stories of marital struggles and the tools they used to rediscover their love. Retrouvaille's comprehensive 3-phase program has been a lifeline for hurting marriages. 48 years of success with marriages that are on the verge of divorce. 95% of couples recommend the program after completing the initial weekend and follow-up phases of the program. January 23-25, 2026 - Registration closes Jan 21, 2026 Questions? Call 816-679-4356 or email Retrokc@gmail.com Registration: www.retrokc.com

New Year Spiritual Reflection and Planning Retreat: Christ's Peace House of Prayer 22131 Meagher Road - Easton, KS 66020 Friday, January 9th at 5:30pm – Sunday, January 11th at 4:30pm – 2026 Begin the new year with clarity and purpose by joining us for our Annual New Year's Spiritual Reflection and Planning Retreat. This retreat is designed to help you step back from the busyness of life, reflect on what truly matters, and prioritize your most important goals for the year ahead. With time set aside for both reflection and action, this retreat will guide you in creating a plan that aligns with your spiritual and personal values. Throughout the weekend, you'll be provided with resources and ideas to help shape your plan, with ample time to work on it in a peaceful, prayerful environment. The retreat includes spiritual talks, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, Confession, and opportunities for private prayer, reflection, and nature walks. You'll also have the opportunity for spiritual direction to help you discern God's will for you in the coming year. Please bring any personal items that may aid in your planning process, such as your Bible, journal, Catechism, notebook, agenda, or laptop. This is a time to connect with God and focus on the year ahead, so you can enter the new year spiritually refreshed and with a clear sense of direction. To attend, fill out the Individual Retreat Form at ChristsPeace.com or call 913.773.8255.

Encounter Youth Rally 2026! All youth (middle school & high school) are invited to Encounter Youth Rally 2026—a powerful day of faith, friends, and fun! Join youth from across the Archdiocese as we encounter Christ through prayer, music, and community. Choose the location that works best for you: Emporia (Feb. 20), Kansas City (Feb. 21), or Topeka (Feb. 22). Learn more at archkck.org/encounter-youth-events or contact your parish youth minister for details.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas Season! Merry Christmas!

"Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him! Christ on earth, be exalted! Sing to the Lord all the whole earth; and that I may join both in one word, let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for Him who is of heaven and then of earth."

— St. Gregory of Nazianzus

Good News!

December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)
Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7 /
Matthew 1:18-24

MIGUEL DULICK

It is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●

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Dear Padre

December 21, 2025

I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. “From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, “How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?” The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

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MONDAY

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

TUESDAY

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Lk 1:57-66

WEDNESDAY

December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1-5,
8b-12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67-79

THURSDAY

December 25
The Nativity of the
Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18
or 1:1-5, 9-14

FRIDAY

December 26
St. Stephen,
the First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10;
7:54-59
Mt 10:17-22

SATURDAY

December 27
St. John, Apostle
and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

SUNDAY

December 28
The Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary,
and Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
Col 3:12-21
or 3:12-17
Mt 2:13-15,
19-23

